

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/693,184

Examiner

Mohammad Ali

Applicant(s)

FRISKE ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21, 24-27, 30-33 and 36-38 (Renumbered as 1-12).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 9/12/06
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**MOHAMMAD ALI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 7/17/06.

After a search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of records, claims 21, 24-27, 30-33 and 36-38 (Renumbered as 1-12) are allowed.

Claims 1-20, 22, 23, 28, 29, 34 and 36 have been cancelled.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney, Erin C. Ming (Reg. No. 47,797) on September 12, 2006.

**Please amend the claims which was filed on 7/17/06 as follows:**

21. (Currently amended) A method for preserving an original schema of a table comprising a plurality of rows, the method comprising:

storing the original schema of the table in a designated table prior to performing a first schema change on the table, wherein the plurality of rows in the table are not self-describing prior to performance of the first schema change;

performing the first schema change on the table to create a new schema for the table;

defining each of one or more rows that are inserted into or updated in the table after performance of the first schema change using the new schema; and

making each of the one or more inserted or updated rows a self-describing row by storing metadata describing the new schema in the row;

rebuilding the table using a valid backup copy of the table,

wherein, when a row of the valid backup copy is self-describing, metadata stored in the row is used to rebuild a corresponding row of the table and

wherein, when the row of the valid backup copy is not self-describing, the original schema stored in the designated table is used to rebuild the corresponding row of the table; and

wherein a backup copy of the table is valid when data in the backup copy is not corrupted or otherwise unsuitable for data recovery.

22. (cancel)

23. (cancel)

27. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium, the computer readable storage medium including a computer readable program for preserving an original schema of a

table comprising a plurality of rows, wherein the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to:

store the original schema of the table in a designated table prior to performing a first

schema change on the table, wherein the plurality of rows in the table are not self-describing

prior to performance of the first schema change;

perform the first schema change on the table to create a new schema for the table;

define each of one or more rows that are inserted into or updated in the table after performance of the first schema change using the new schema; and

make each of the one or more inserted or updated rows a self-describing row by storing metadata describing the new schema in the row;

wherein the computer readable program when executed on the computer further causes the computer to:

rebuild the table using a valid backup copy of the table,

wherein, when a row of the valid backup copy is self-describing, metadata stored in the row is used to rebuild a corresponding row of the table and

wherein, when the row of the valid backup copy is not self-describing, the original schema stored in the designated table is used to rebuild the corresponding row of the table; and

wherein a backup copy of the table is valid when data in the backup copy is not corrupted or otherwise unsuitable for data recovery.

28. (cancel)

29. (cancel)

33. (Currently amended) A system for preserving an original schema of a table comprising a plurality of rows, the system comprising:

a designated table operable to store the original schema of the table, the original schema being stored in the designated table prior to performance of a first schema change on the table,

wherein the plurality of rows in the table are not self-describing prior to performance of the first schema change; and

a first mechanism operable to:

perform the first schema change on the table to create a new schema for the table,

define each of one or more rows that are inserted into or updated in the table after performance of the first schema change using the new schema, and

make each of the one or more inserted or updated rows a self-describing row by storing metadata describing the new schema in the row;

a second mechanism operable to rebuild the table using a valid backup copy of the table.

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          wherein, when a row of the valid backup copy is self-describing, metadata stored in the row is used to rebuild a corresponding row of the table and

          wherein, when the row of the valid backup copy is not self-describing, the original schema stored in the designated table is used to rebuild the corresponding row of the table; and

          wherein a backup copy of the table is valid when data in the backup copy is not corrupted or otherwise unsuitable for data recovery.

34. (cancel)

35. (cancel)

***Reason for Allowance***

3. The prior art made of records does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements, as recited in independent claims 21, 27 and 33. More specifically, the prior art of records does not specifically suggest as amended by an Examiner's amendment.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Contact Information***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (571) 272-4105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:30 am-6:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Mohammad Ali  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2166

MA  
September 12, 2006